

First Alert WX-167 EasyStart Guide for Schools

This First Alert WX-167 Public Alert Radio will alert you to weather and civil emergencies in your school's local area. You will need to program the radio to receive information for your specific school.

This radio comes with a manufacturer's manual, which should be saved along with this EasyStart Guide. If for some reason this EasyStart Guide for Schools is all you have, here are some simple reminders to allow you to operate your NOAA Public Alert Radio.

Batteries



The First Alert WX-167 radio takes 5 AA batteries. Either non-rechargeable alkaline or rechargeable nickel cadmium (Ni-Cad) or nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries can be used. This radio has a slide switch which must be correctly positioned depending on the type of batteries used. Adjust this switch before installing the batteries. The switch is small and located inside the battery compartment.

When the switch is set to NiCad, the batteries are automatically charged. If non-rechargeable alkaline batteries are installed and the switch is set to NiCad, a fire or explosion can occur.

If using rechargeable NI-Cad or NiMH batteries:

Push the switch to the left, away from the middle of the battery compartment (look for NiCad designation on the switch)

If using alkaline batteries:

Push the switch to the right, toward the middle of the battery compartment (look for Alkaline designation on the switch)

Install the batteries and plug in the power cord and connect to the back of the radio at the port labeled **9VAC-or-12VDC**.

Setting up basic information

To adjust the alert volume

When you first connect the WX-167 to power (use both the AC wall socket and the DC batteries for back up), you will need to set basic information. Details for setting up this information are in both the manual which accompanied this radio and online at: <http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/proginfo.htm>

Every time you push a button, a beep will sound. If you prefer not to hear the beep during the set-up process, you can temporarily turn off the Alert Volume. The Alert Volume switch is located on the upper left side of the radio. Turning the switch to the OFF position will allow you to perform the set-up silently.

First Alert WX-167 EasyStart Guide for Schools



To set up date and time

IMPORTANT:

Do not forget to reset the Alert Volume when finished with the set-up process.

To set up the date and time:

1. Push and hold the [Program ●] button until you see SET DATE/TIME
2. Push [Next ►] until you see SET YEAR
3. Turn [Function Knob] until you see desired year
4. Push [Next ►] until you see SET MONTH
5. Turn [Function Knob] until you see desired month
6. Push [Next ►] until you see SET DAY
7. Turn [Function Knob] until you see desired day
8. Push [Next ►] until you see TIME ZONE MENU
9. Turn [Function Knob] to set the Time Zone (Eastern -0500; Central -0600; Mountain -0700; Pacific -0800)
10. Push [Next ►] to display DAY SAVING
11. Turn [Function Knob] to select either Daylight Savings ON or OFF. Set to ON if it is currently Daylight Savings time in your location.
12. Push [Next ►] to display CLOCK
13. Turn [Function Knob] to choose between the 12-hour and 24-hour clock systems
14. Push [Next ►] to display SET TIME
15. Turn [Function Knob] until you see current time
16. Push [SAVE]

Finding the best Channel for your area

The WX-167 can store only one Channel.

To find the nearest Weather Band (WB) Channel to your school:

1. Go to the website <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>
2. Click “Station Listings” on the left hand side of page
3. Click “County by county coverage”
4. Click on your state
5. Scroll to find your COUNTY/CITY/AREA

First Alert WX-167 EasyStart Guide for Schools

	<p>6. Write down the numbers located in the columns labeled “FREQ.” for all stations listed for your area.</p> <p>Identify your Weather Band (WB) channel number(s) by comparing your FREQ values to the following table:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (1=162.400)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (2=162.425)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (3=162.450)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (4=162.475)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (5=162.500)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (6=162.525)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Channel (7=162.550)</p> <p>You can also get the best WB Channel number for your area by calling 1-888-697-7263.</p>
Setting your Channel	<p>To set the WB Channel:</p> <p>NOTE: It is recommended that you test all WB channels for your area to determine which channel provides the best reception.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Push and hold the [Program ●] button until you see SET DATE/TIME 2. Turn [Function Knob] until you see SET WB CHANNEL 3. Push [Next ►] 4. Turn [Function Knob] to select the best Channel number for your area (most often Channel 1 or 7) 5. Push [SAVE ●]
Setting the SAME Geographic code	<p>The WX-167 can accept more than one Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) geographic locator code and this radio has the SAME code numbers already in it. Your WX-167 radio will receive all the messages sent from the NWR transmission tower, which has a range of around 30 to 40 miles. Setting your radio to the specific county your school is in will eliminate receiving messages meant for your surrounding areas.</p> <p>To set your SAME Code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify which State, County and SUBDIVISION (which portion of the County – North, South, East or West) your school is located in.

First Alert WX-167 EasyStart Guide for Schools

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Push and hold [Program ●] until SET DATE/TIME appears 3. Turn the [Function Knob] to SETUP LOCATIONS 4. Push [NEXT ►] (you will see SET LOCATION 01) 5. Turn the [Function Knob] until your State appears (States are listed alphabetically) 6. Push [NEXT ►] 7. Turn the [Function Knob] until your County appears (Counties are listed alphabetically) 8. Push [NEXT ►] 9. Turn the [Function Knob] until the county SUBDIVISION (North, South, East, West) appears. If you are unsure of your SUBDIVISION, accept the default selection of “ANY” 10. Push [NEXT ►] 11. Push [SAVE ●] <p>You have now set the SAME Geographical LOCATION 01 for your school. If you wish to receive alerts for other areas, such as an adjacent county where some of your students live, you will have to repeat the above procedure for LOCATION (02, 03, etc.).</p>
Setting Alert options	<p>The Model WX-167 has four Alert options to choose from. See page 14 of the User’s Manual for a description of each option.</p> <p>To set alert option:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Push [Program ●] until you see SET DATE/TIME 2. Turn the [Function Knob] to ALERT OPTIONS 3. Push [NEXT ►] 4. Turn the [Function Knob] to select your desired option 5. Push [SAVE ●] <p>If you want to control the release of information (such as an AMBER Alert) and minimize rumors among students and other visitors who may overhear broadcasts, it is suggested you use the SIREN→EVENT option. In this mode, a siren will sound a warning; you can read the warning on the LCD display and then turn off the siren.</p> <p>Turn off the siren by pressing the OFF button on the front of the WX-167.</p>

First Alert WX-167
EasyStart Guide for Schools

Testing your reception	<p>After setting up your basic options, be sure to the sound switch back on; the switch is located on the left hand side of the radio.</p> <p>To test reception:</p> <p>Push Radio [ON]; you should hear the weather forecast</p> <p>Radio [OFF] will silence the radio, but leave it in Alert Mode ready to receive an alert message.</p> <p>NOTE: You should receive periodic warning tests every Wednesday between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.</p>
Improving your reception	<p>Reception problems can be improved by changing the radio's position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move the radio away from metal cabinets• Move the radio higher and closer to windows <p>Reception can also be improved by using an external antenna available from the manufacturer and local electronic or science stores. Often a simple, flat T-shaped dipole antenna similar to the type used for stereo receivers is sufficient. For more information, see "Methods to Improve Reception of Weather Radio Broadcasts" online at http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/index.php?page=nwr/antenna.</p>
More information	<p>Detailed instructions can be found in your Model WX-167 User's Manual or on the Public-Alert-Radio web site at http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/proginfo.htm</p>

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